

Docket No.: 50212-573

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277  
Toshiaki OKUNO : Confirmation Number:  
Serial No.: Divisional of Appl. No.  
09/726,601 : Group Art Unit:  
Filed: March 01, 2004 : Examiner:  
For: DISPERSION-COMPENSATING MODULE, LINE SWITCHING APPARATUS AND  
OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Information Disclosure  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The references were cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application Serial No. 09/726,601, filed December 1, 2000, which is relied upon for an

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earlier filing date under 35 USC 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR 1.98(d).

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>CITATION IN AN<br/>APPLICATION</b><br><br>(PTO-1449) |          |   | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br><b>50212-573</b> | SERIAL NO.<br><b>Divisional of Appl. No.<br/>09/726,601</b> |   |             |    |
|--|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|----|
|  |          |   | <b>APPLICANT<br/>Toshiaki OKUNO</b>  |   |   |             |    |
|  |          |   | FILING DATE<br><b>March 01, 2004</b> | GROUP   |   |             |    |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |          |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
| EXAMINER'S INITIALS  | CITE NO. | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sub>2</sub> ( <i>if known</i> )  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY       | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document             | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |             |    |
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|  | US       |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |          |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
| EXAMINER'S INITIALS  | CITE NO. | Foreign Patent Document<br>Country Code <sub>3</sub> -Number +-Kind<br>Codes ( <i>if known</i> )  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY       | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document          | Pages, Columns, Lines<br>Where Relevant<br>Figures Appear                 | Translation |    |
|  |          |   |                                      |   |   | Yes         | No |
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|  |          | EP 0 902 558 A2   | 03/17/1999                           | Fujitsu Limited   |   |             |    |
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|  |          | JP 8-274713   | 10/18/1996                           | Fujitsu Limited   |   |             |    |
| <b>OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>            |          |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
| EXAMINER'S INITIALS  | CITE NO. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |                                      |   |   |             |    |
|  |          |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
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|  |          |   |                                      |   |   |             |    |
| EXAMINER   |          |   |                                      | DATE CONSIDERED   |   |             |    |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.